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*By James Feenan at 2:09 pm, Mar 28, 2024*

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**Subject:** letter to Planning Commission  
**Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:20:30 PM  
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Attached is a letter from Ms. O'Rourke regarding the hearing on April 4, 2024. Please provide a copy to each member of the commission.

Thank you,

Michele

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Michele Robb  
Legal Assistant  
Law Office of Margaret Mary O'Rourke

# Margaret Mary O'Rourke

ATTORNEY AT LAW

March 28, 2024

Mendocino County Planning Commission *via email: pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org*  
860 North Bush Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Hearing on April 4, 2024  
Applicant: Mendocino Unified School District  
U-23-2024

Dear Planning Commission Members:

As a neighbor, past MCCSD board member and former attorney for MCCSD, I generally support this project. My primary concern is the potential adverse effect the extraction of water from TEN wells that will supply the storage tanks. I am not concerned with adverse effect during times of adequate rainfall, however, when our groundwater table is stressed during period of a drought, the extraction from the ten supply wells may pose an adverse impact.

The MCCSD Groundwater 72 hour testing was drafted to protect residential or small business increase/impact. The cumulative impact of drilling and testing of 10 wells instead of one well is significant. Notifying and testing of wells for only adjacent owners (as stated in the MCCSD groundwater ordinance) may not be adequate for this increase in scope.

A second concern is construction and continuous pumping could cause quality of water issues, i.e., such as pH and mineral changes along with the introduction of contaminants.

Finally, I am concerned that the staff report glosses over the potential for serving commercial interests before residential interests and may allow more development that will put more demand on our groundwater supply and MCCSD sewer facilities.

To mitigate these concerns, I suggest the following:

1. MUSD and MCCSD agree to supply emergency water to any resident who can demonstrate their quantity or quality of groundwater supply was negatively affected with comparable replacement of water from the storage tanks for their domestic needs.

2. That applicant agree to test wells within one mile of the project for quantity and quality if such testing is requested by the resident.
3. The conditions of approval state that the use of the emergency water supply be for MUSD use, residential use and fire protection, stating that limited or no water will be provided to commercial businesses.

I thank the people who have been involved with this project for their tireless efforts. Ultimately, the storage tank will be of significant value to the residents of our community.

Sincerely,



Margaret Mary O'Rourke



/mr